

CELEBRATING



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



CELEBRATING



\$229 MILLION
in Total Assets

\$206 MILLION
Total Grants Since Inception

1,083 Total Funds

HONORING OUR PAST

Shaping Our Future

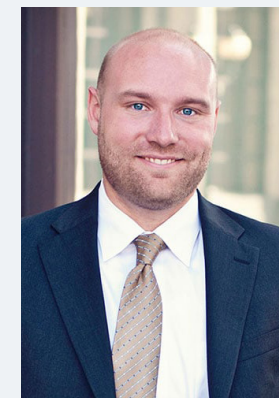
Dear Friends,

In 2024, the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation proudly celebrated 75 years of strengthening Linn County. We are deeply grateful to the many philanthropists and foresighted citizens who have made this milestone possible.

In August, hundreds of you joined us to commemorate this special occasion – a powerful reminder of why this work endures. So many people care deeply about our community and its future, and it is an honor to partner with you.

Of course, 2024 was not just about celebrating the past. Through several community surveys, we learned more about what you expect from us and how we can best partner with you in the future. We also strengthened our commitment to expanding both internal and external learning opportunities. Understanding the people, challenges, and aspirations of our community are at the heart of our organization, and we look forward to continuing that journey.

While the future always holds uncertainty, one thing remains clear: the Community Foundation will continue to serve Linn County. Thank you for your enduring partnership. We look forward to the next 75 years of working together to build a vibrant and inclusive Linn County where everyone can thrive.



A handwritten signature in black ink.

Jon Landon
2024 Board Chair



A handwritten signature in black ink.

Karla Twedt-Ball
President & CEO



celebrating

75 YEARS OF

Strengthening Linn County

In 2024, the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation celebrated 75 years of fostering philanthropy and supporting nonprofits in Linn County. To mark the milestone, we gathered with hundreds of community members for a block party in August. With local food trucks, custom Raygun t-shirts, and the unveiling of a beautiful new mural on our building, it was a great day of connecting with the community we are honored to serve.

The anniversary celebrations also provided a meaningful opportunity to bring together members of the William Quarton Heritage Society for the first time since the pandemic began. These philanthropists, who have made permanent gifts to the Community Foundation, heard inspiring reflections from attorney Darrel Morf, who helped William Quarton make his transformational gifts to the community many years ago.

To extend the celebration even further, the Community Foundation sponsored a Free Admission Day at local arts and cultural institutions. Community members enjoyed free access to more than a dozen nonprofits that connect us to art, history, and culture.

Together, these 75th anniversary celebrations were a powerful reminder of the many passionate individuals who have shaped our organization and community over the years. We are excited to continue serving Linn County for many more years to come!





A MURAL to Mark 75 Years

To celebrate its 75th anniversary, the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation partnered with Murals & More, a volunteer-run nonprofit, to create an inspiring new public mural.

With support from Downtown Cedar Rapids and Community Foundation supporters, the project took shape. After a competitive selection process led by Murals & More, local artist Scott Takes of Underground Art Studios was chosen to bring the mural to life. Scott, a prominent Cedar Rapids-based artist, has created custom works nationwide and is known locally for two striking murals: a drag-racing cow in Oakhill Jackson and a pensive, cosmic Lucille Ball in Kingston Village.

Working closely with Murals & More and the Community Foundation, Scott created a mural that honors local nonprofits and reflects the heart of the Foundation's mission: the meaning of philanthropy. The concept draws from the Greek roots of the word *philanthropy* – *'philos'* (love), and *'anthropos'* (human).

"Philanthropy is often translated as 'love for humanity,' and this mural is a powerful reminder to center love in our work for Linn County," said President & CEO Karla Twedt-Ball.



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Karla Twedt-Ball
President & CEO

A GROWING LEGACY

William Quarton Heritage Society

Although the Community Foundation was founded in 1949, it wasn’t until 40 years later that it became a public foundation – thanks to the vision and generosity of William Quarton. Recognizing the power of endowments, Mr. Quarton made a major gift and issued a challenge: if the organization could gather enough local support to become a public foundation, he would establish a \$900,000 charitable trust. The community quickly responded, and the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation was formed.

Attorney Darrel Morf, a long-time friend of Mr. Quarton, played a key role in that process – and again nearly two decades later when Mr. Quarton passed away and left a transformational \$35 million to the Community Foundation. As Mr. Quarton often said, he didn’t know what challenges the future would hold, but he wanted the community to be equipped to respond.

The William Quarton Heritage Society honors those inspired by his example, recognizing donors who have established endowed funds or included the Community Foundation in their estate plans. Today, more than 500 philanthropists are part of this giving society.

In 2024, members of the William Quarton Heritage Society gathered for the first time since 2019. Darrel shared stories behind Mr. Quarton’s remarkable generosity, celebrating the legacy of one of our community’s most impactful philanthropists. Though it has been more than 35 years since he initially set out to inspire giving in Linn County, Mr. Quarton’s legacy continues to grow alongside our community.



New Members in 2024

Kathy Franzenburg and William A. Davis
Carol Frischkorn
Shannon and Eric Hanson
John Locher
Katie and Matt McSweeney
Reverend Tom and Margaret* Sears
Rick Stewart
Michael and Karen Sweet

*Deceased



\$11
MILLION
Contributions

1,010
Gifts Received

42
New Funds

346
New Donors

\$12
MILLION
Grants and
Scholarships Awarded

2,223
Number of
Grants Awarded

725
Nonprofits
Funded

101
Scholarships
Awarded

TURNING GENEROSITY



Van Meter, Inc.:

Fostering a Culture of Giving Back

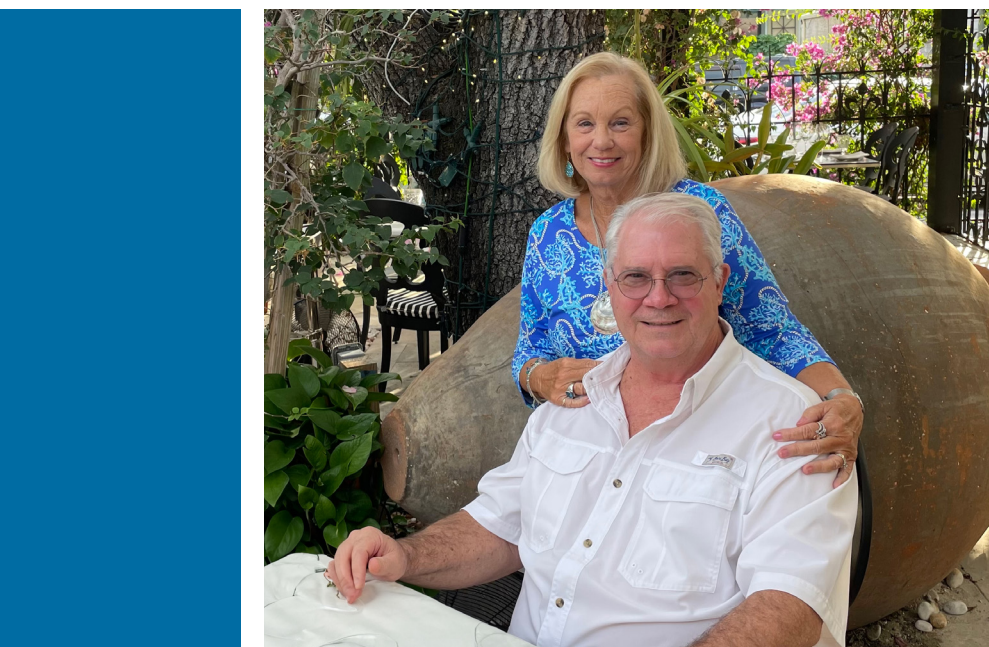
When Van Meter, Inc. established a donor-advised fund in 2005, it was only the beginning. Since then, the employee-owned company has granted more than \$2 million and provided countless hours of volunteer service. Working with the Community Foundation allows Van Meter to award grants recommended by 850+ employee-owners across 25 Midwest locations.

INTO Community Impact



Community-Based Philanthropy: The Mount Vernon Community Betterment Funds

To build philanthropic resources in one of Linn County's smaller communities, donors worked with local officials to establish the Mount Vernon Community Betterment Funds. Through these funds, residents can raise and distribute funds in a way that fits the community they know and love. In 2024, the first grant was awarded from these funds – \$1,000 for a school-based program meeting a variety of needs for local youth.



Watching It Grow:

Michael and Marla Valliere Plant Seeds of Impact

Michael and Marla Valliere were among the first to establish a donor-advised fund at the Community Foundation. Since 1990, they have watched the fund grow and benefit their hometown. "One of the reasons we did this was so the money would stay there and grow," they said. "This fund will be there in the future to support multiple organizations."

Opportunity Center:

Connecting Job Seekers to Resources

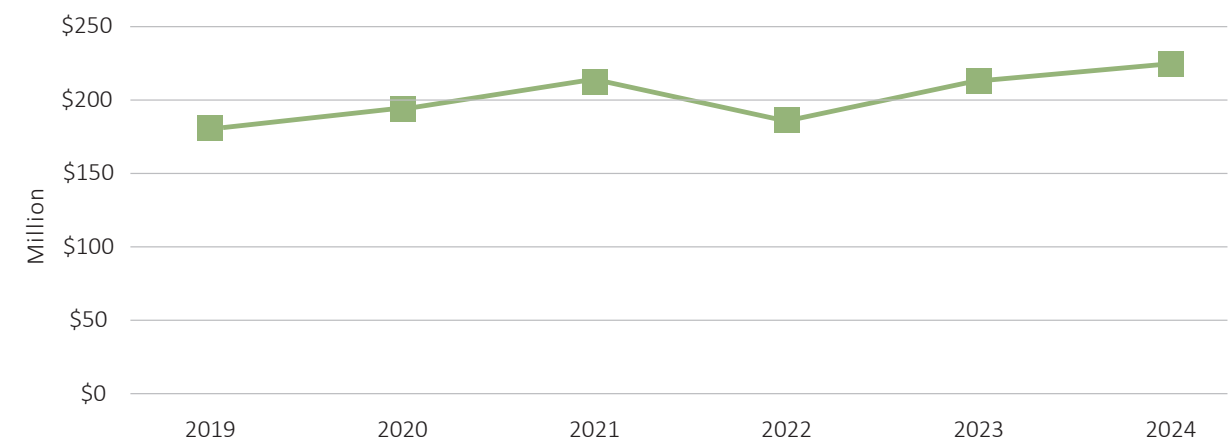
In 2019, the Cedar Rapids Public Library established the Opportunity Center to support the community's employment and job training goals. Through resume workshops, application assistance, and employer outreach, the Center promotes stability for the area's many immigrants and refugees. Thanks in part to support from Community Foundation donors, this partnership between several nonprofits and government groups now connects residents to a wide range of resources.



FINANCIAL Highlights

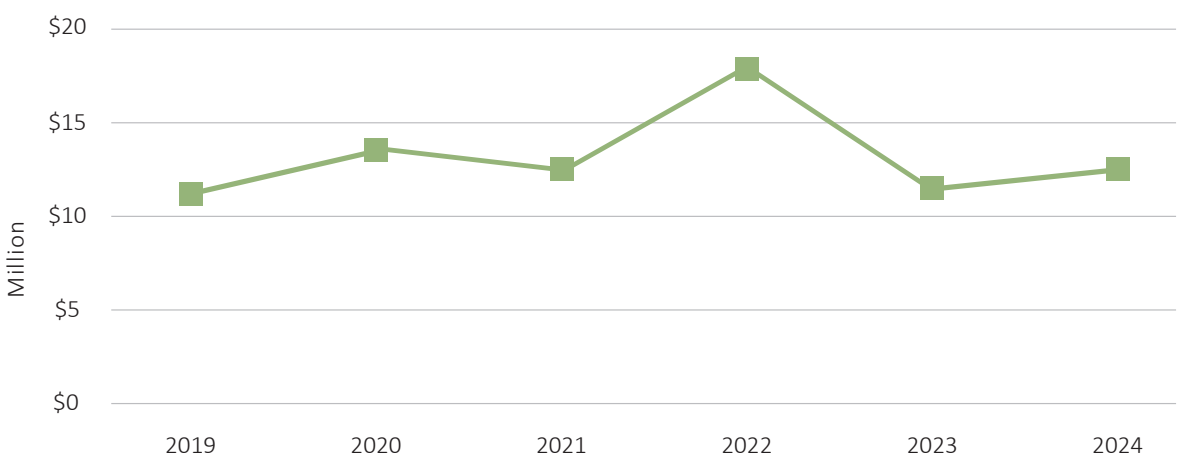
Asset Growth Over the Years

\$229
MILLION

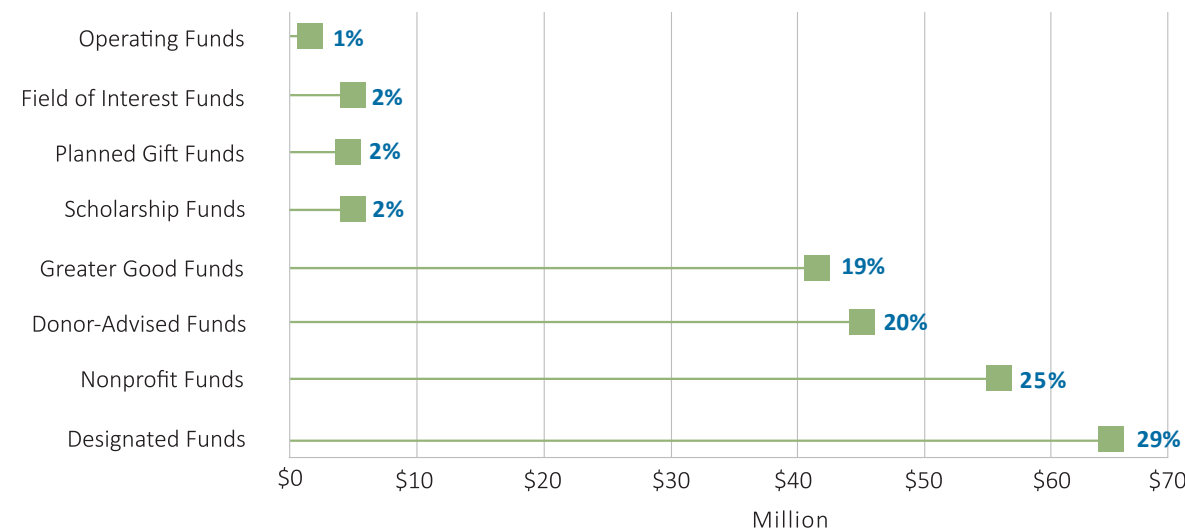


Grants Awarded

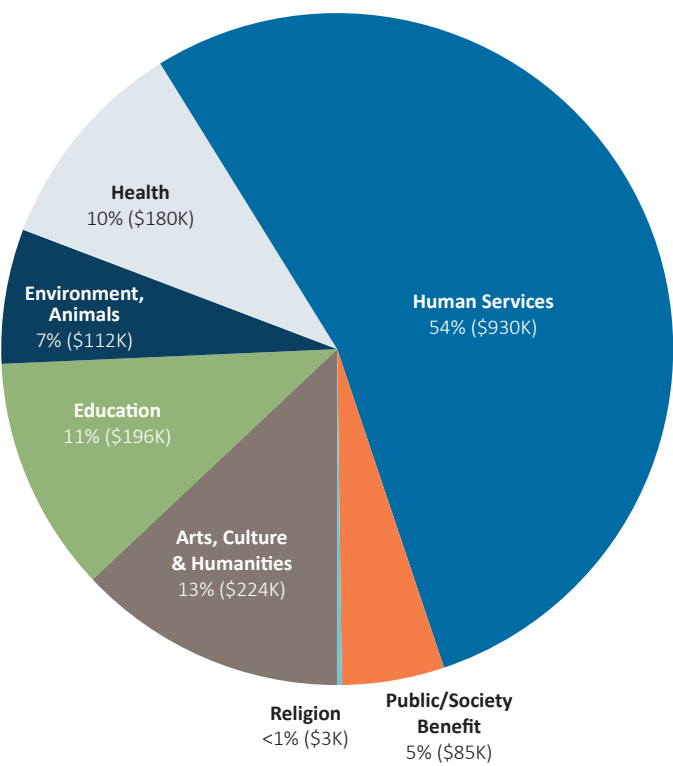
\$12
MILLION



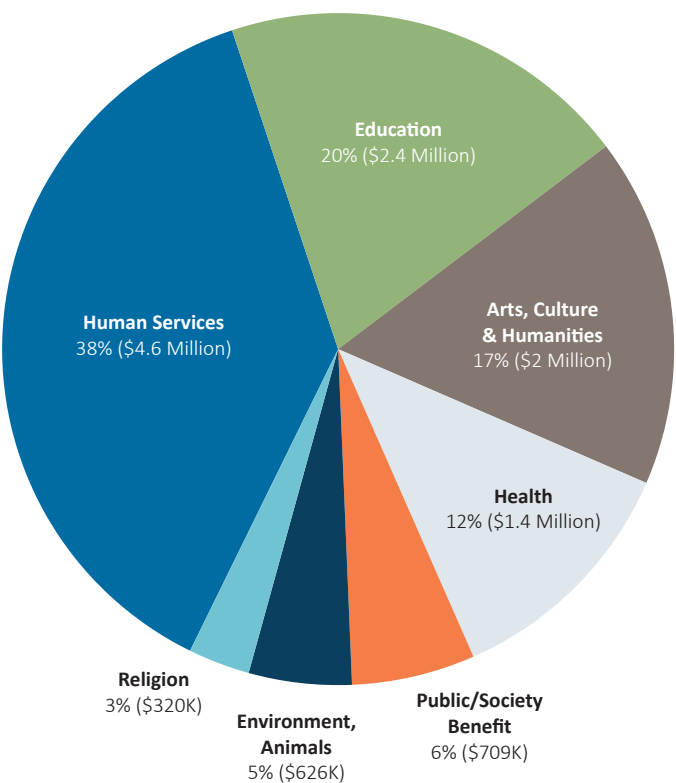
Assets by Fund Type



2024 Greater Good Funds Awarded by Sector



All 2024 Grants Awarded by Sector



FUNDS ESTABLISHED

in 2024

Donor-Advised Funds

Donor-Advised Funds allow donors to remain actively involved by making grant recommendations to causes they care about whenever it is convenient.

- Bloomhall Family Donor-Advised Fund
- Fred and Bev Timko Family Fund
- James and Sharon Altorfer Family Fund
- John A. Locher Endowment Fund
- McSweeney Family Fund
- McSweeney Giving Fund
- Olson Family Legacy Fund
- Thomas and Susan Wolle Family Fund
- TrueNorth Legacy Foundation Endowment Fund for Iowa

Field of Interest Funds

This fund type allows donors to support specific areas of interest that have meaning to them. This may include support for multiple areas of interest, such as the environment, education, the arts, or homelessness.

- Thomas K. and Elizabeth J. Janik Fund

Nonprofit Funds

Nonprofit Funds provide nonprofit organizations with general operating support, stability during cyclical variances in income, and support for areas of high importance to the organization.

- Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival Endowment Challenge Fund
- Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival Friends Fund
- Freedom Foundation Endowment Fund
- Freedom Foundation Friends Fund
- Indian Creek Nature Center Endowment Challenge II Fund
- Indian Creek Nature Center ESG Investment Fund
- Iowa Giving Crew Endowment Fund
- Iowa Giving Crew Friends Fund
- Julie and Katie Beckett Arc Program Fund
- Kids First Law Center Quasi-Endowed Fund III
- Kids First Law Center Quasi-Endowed Fund IV
- Orchestra Iowa Endowment Challenge Fund
- Philip Hamilton Pay it Forward Fund

Designated Funds

Designated Funds are established by a donor to provide ongoing support for a specific nonprofit organization. The organization(s) the donor chooses will receive annual distributions from the fund.

- Daryl and Leslie Julich Endowed Fund
- Garner Family Mount Vernon Arts Fund
- Hub and Marie Schimberg Library Fund
- Jim and Jo Ellen Haddad Fund
- Katrina and Les Garner Sculpture Fund
- Margaret and Tom Sears Principal Percussionist Fund
- NewBo City Market Hype Fuel Fund
- Orchestra Iowa Rick Stewart Fund
- Patterson Family Indian Creek Nature Center Fund
- Patterson Family Kirkwood Community College Fund
- Patterson Family Peoples Church Fund
- Patterson Family Plymouth State University Fund
- Patterson Family University of Idaho Fund
- Robert and Caroline Kucharski Fund III
- William A. Davis Fund for Chorale Midwest
- William A. Davis Fund for Grace Episcopal Church

Greater Good Funds

Donors who want to support the community beyond their lifetimes can do so by establishing an unrestricted Greater Good Fund. These funds allow the Community Foundation to address community needs and opportunities as they emerge.

- Arlene Madill Endowed Fund
- Barbara J. Hughes Greater Good Fund
- E.W. “Bill” Munsell Foundation

Scholarship Funds

This fund type is used by donors to help students achieve their educational goals through scholarships.

Community Betterment Funds

This fund type can be established to provide immediate and lasting support for nonprofits serving non-metro communities in Linn County. The funds are administered through a grant application process overseen by a committee in the community it supports.



Donor Learning Series

To educate, inspire, and connect local donors, the Community Foundation launched a new Donor Learning Series in 2024. The events covered a range of topics through expert presentations, panel discussions, and peer conversations.



Nonprofit Know-How: Artificial Intelligence

Nonprofit Know-Hows offer fast, free, and focused learning opportunities for Linn County nonprofits. In December, Dr. Laura Lacasa Yost, Instructional Designer at Kirkwood Community College, led a session on artificial intelligence (AI) tools and its potential impacts on the nonprofit sector. Attendees also shared how they are beginning to use this emerging technology in their own organizations.



Thrive Cohort

Throughout 2024, the third edition of the Thrive Cohort brought together 11 Black, Brown and Biracial professionals serving local nonprofits. The group met monthly to network and learn from local leaders, while each participant’s organization received a \$2,000 unrestricted grant. Thrive aims to help close the racial leadership gap and increase diversity within nonprofit staff and leadership teams.



UnCharitable Documentary Showing

In November, the Nonprofit Network partnered with other nonprofits to host a free screening of *UnCharitable*, a timely documentary exploring the realities of philanthropy and proposing a bold new approach to giving. Part of the Iowa Nonprofit Summit, the event also featured a local panel discussion.

COMPETITIVE GRANT

2024 Recipients

The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation administers competitive grant programs from its unrestricted Greater Good Funds and for eight local corporations and families. Those nonprofit recipients include:

Arts, Culture & Humanities

African American Museum of Iowa
Brucemore Inc.
Cedar Rapids Museum of Art
Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre
Fuerzas Culturales Ballet Folklorico de Cedar Rapids Inc.
Harmony School of Music
International Academy for Russian Music, Arts & Culture
Iowa Ceramics Center and Glass Studio
Iowa Children's Museum
Mount Vernon-Lisbon Community Theatre
National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
Orchestra Iowa
Patrons of the Performing Arts at Washington High School
Playtime Poppy Children's Theatre
Red Cedar Chamber Music
Revival Theatre Company
The History Center
Theatre Cedar Rapids

Education

Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation
Central City PTO
College Community School District
Eastern Iowa Arts Academy
Friends of the Lisbon Public Library
Iowa College Foundation
Kirkwood Community College Foundation
Marion Public Library Foundation
Mount Mercy University
NewBoCo
The Teacher Store

Public/Society Benefit

Linn Area Mountain Bike Association
Linn County Fair Association
NewBo City Market
Northwest Neighbors Neighborhood Association

Environment/Animals

Growing Real Opportunities for Work at Kazimour Farm & Orchard
Indian Creek Nature Center
Iowa Valley Resource Conservation & Development
Linn County Trails Association
Trees Forever

Health

Alzheimer's Association – Iowa Chapter
American Cancer Society – Cedar Rapids
Area Substance Abuse Council
Community Health Free Clinic
Deafinitely Dogs Inc.
Eastern Iowa Health Center
Fellowship Club Cedar Rapids
Foundation 2 Crisis Services
His Hands Free Clinic
Linn County Public Health Department
Mercy Medical Center
Planned Parenthood of the Heartland

Religion

Word of Faith Pentecostal Church of God in Christ

Human Services

African American Family Resiliency Association
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cedar Rapids & East Central Iowa
Can Play
Catherine McAuley Center
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Dubuque – Cedar Rapids Office
Cedar Rapids Inferno Soccer Club
Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity
Central Furniture Rescue
ChildServe Foundation Inc.
Clothe-A-Child Inc.
Discovery Living
Ecumenical Community Center Foundation
Families Helping Families of Iowa
Feed Iowa First
Four Oaks Family and Children's Services
Freedom Stitchers of Iowa
Friends of the Family
Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa
Girls on the Run of Eastern Iowa
Hawkeye Area Community Action Program
Hawkeye Area Council, Boy Scouts of America
Hawkeye Downs
Heritage Area Agency on Aging
Horizons – A Family Service Alliance
Iowa Legal Aid
Junior Achievement of Eastern Iowa
Junior League of Cedar Rapids
Kids First Law Center
Lavender Legal Center
Lisbon-Mount Vernon Ambulance Service
Matthew 25
Miracles in Motion Therapeutic Equestrian Center
Paradox Transitional Home
Power of Women and Children
Safe Place Foundation
Sleep in Heavenly Peace
Southeast Linn Community Center Corporation
Tanager
The Arc of East Central Iowa
The Freedom Foundation
Together We Achieve
United We March Forward
Waypoint Services for Women, Children and Families
Wheelchair Ramp Accessibility Program Coalition
Willis Dady Homeless Services
YPN



Learning Cohort for Small & Grassroots Nonprofits

The Learning Cohort for Small and Grassroots Nonprofits brought together staff, board members, and volunteers from six organizations to access essential resources and networking opportunities. Meeting throughout the fall of 2024, the cohort focused on building sustainability within organizations with no paid staff or fewer than five employees.



Nonprofit Party and Spirit of Minnie Rubek Recognitions

Named after early Community Foundation donor Minnie Rubek, this award celebrates nonprofit professionals who work quietly but powerfully to strengthen Linn County. At the annual Nonprofit Party, we proudly honored 25 individuals who go above and beyond for their organizations and our community.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Michelle Niermann, Chair-Elect
David Little, Treasurer
Anthony Arrington, Secretary
Diana Ledford, Past-Chair

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Ray Brown
Patrice Carroll
Chris Casey
Jim Haddad
Nancy Hill

Mary Junge
Janice Kerkove
Joe Lock
Brandi Mueller
Tracey Myers
Dave Parmley

Okpara Rice
Craig Smith
Haywood Stowe
Matthew Van Maanen

STAFF

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Karla Twedt-Ball, MPP, President & CEO

Development

Laura Booth, CFRE, Director of Family Philanthropy
Kristi Columbus, Vice President of Development
Claire English, Donor Relations Associate
Arthur Kim, MA, Development Officer
Christi Smeed, MAcc, Development Services Manager
Josie Velles, Senior Director of Development Services

Finance

Shirley Amthauer, Controller
Emmylou Ball, Systems Analyst
Paula Lange, CPA, CFO
America Manjarrez, Office Manager

ADVISORY COUNCILS

Nonprofit Advisory Council

Alejandro Pino, Chair, YPN
Tracey Achenbach, Housing Fund for Linn County
LaNisha Cassell, African American Museum of Iowa
Dennis Goemaat, Linn County Conversation
Kathy Horan, Meth-Wick Community
Ellen Kleckner, Iowa Ceramics Center and Glass Studio
Theresa Lewis, The Arc of East Central Iowa
Joe Lock, Eastern Iowa Health Center
Nicole McAlexander, Southeast Linn Community Center
Al O’Bannon, LBA Foundation
Emmaly Renshaw, Feed Iowa First
Heather Wagner, Eastern Iowa Arts Academy

Nonprofit Investment Advisory Council

ASAC – Brody Suddendorf, Sara Bearrows
Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation –
Charity Tyler, Derek Johansen
Community Health Free Clinic – Ethan Benton
Four Oaks – Alison Brumm, Mary Beth O’Neill,
Steve Schuring
Goodwill of the Heartland – Tammi Erb, Todd Helle
The Arc of East Central Iowa – Dale Rettenmeier,
Philip Schramp
The History Center – Kris Gulick, Rick Fry
Indian Creek Nature Center – John Myers, Scott Overland
Orchestra Iowa Foundation – Brian Engler, Dick Minette
St. Lukes Foundation – Mary Klinger, Tonya Arnold
Theatre Cedar Rapids – Murphy McGrath, Pat Deignan
Waypoint – Mike Weaverling

AFFILIATES

Community Foundation of Washington County
Wapello County Foundation

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David Little, Treasurer
Diana Ledford, Past-Chair
Okpara Rice
Mary Junge
Nancy Hill-Davis
Christine Casey

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Patrice Carroll
RaeAnn Gordon*
Joe Lock
Tracey Myers
Haywood Stowe

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Matthew Van Maanen
Jen Welton*

Investment Committee

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Diana Ledford
Julie Nosek*
Mike Sheeley*
Craig Smith
Blake Wilkinson*

Nominating Committee

Jon Landon, Chair
Diana Ledford
Brandi Mueller
Michelle Niermann

Racial Equity Steering Committee

Anthony Arrington, Chair
All Board members were invited to participate.

GRANT COMMITTEES

Organization Support Grant Committee

Patrice Carroll, *Chair*
Cymone Green*
Janice Kerkove
Vaughn Klopfenstein*
Cal Norris*
Dave Parmley
Sreeja Sreelatha*
Pam White*
Blake Wilkinson*

Linn County Grant Committee

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Susan Gehring*
David Little
Melissa Murphy*
Tracey Myers
Hailee Sandberg*

Program Support Grant Committee

Anthony Arrington, *Chair*
Jill Ackerman
Janet Henry*
Haywood Stowe
Sudhir Surendran*
Kevin Welu*
Jeff Wozencraft*
Matthew Van Maanen

General Scholarship Committee

Arti Anavkar*
Claire English*
Marta Hershner*
Audrey Mickelson*

Kleiman and McNamara Scholarship Committee

Sarah Hoffman*
Deb Kleiman**
Arthur Kim*
Nicholas Ludwig*
Phaedra McNamara**
Drew Morton*

**Non-Board Representatives
**Donors on Scholarship Committees*



Awarded the Platinum Level of Transparency, the highest level on Candid.



Confirmed in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.



GREATER CEDAR RAPIDS
**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

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